ARUNACHALAM): (a) Exact figures of the imported raw material utilised by the paper industry during the years 1984 and 1985 are not available. However,the consumption of imported wood pulp/waste paper by the industry is estimated at 15—20 per cent of the total requirement of raw material.

(b) The installed capacity, production and capacity utilisation of the industry during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Installed capacity	Production	Capacity utilisation
1983	19·15	11·78	61·5%
1984	21·65	13·71	63·3%
1985	23·50	15·00 (estimated)	63·4%

(c) The industry utilises various types of raw material for manufacture of paper and paper board such as wood, agricultural residues, waste paper, etc. The extent of demand for raw material would therefore depend on the type of raw material used. In order to augment the availability of raw material for the industry, import of pulp, waste paper and woodchips is permitted under OGL free of customs levies. Excise concessions have been extended for manufacture of paper and paper board based on bagasse and other unconventional raw materials. The Industry is also being encouraged to take up captive plantations.

Extending provisions of MRTP Act to Public Sector Companies

641. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain consumer organisations in the country have urged the Central Government to extend the provisions of the MRTP Act to the Public Sector Companies also and that whether at a Seminar on 'unfair trade practices and consumer protection' held in Delhi in December, 1985, a similar demand was made;

(b) if so, whether in view of the fact that MRTP Act is a watchdog of consumer interests, Government propose to extend its provisions to public sector undertakings and to the Co-operative organisations which are no less prone to indulging in unfair trade practices; and

(c) if so, what is the decision taken in this regard and if the answer is in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir. However, in a Seminar on Consumer Protection held in Delhi on 20th and 21st January, 1986, which was also attended by certain Consumer Organisations, a suggestion had been made for bringing the Public Sector Undertakings within the purview of MRTP Act, 1969.

(b) and (c) Although various suggestions for protecting the interests of the Consumer are presently under consideration of the Government, no final decision has been taken in this behalf.

Non-Existent Biogas Plants

642. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of biogas plants set up under the aegis of the KVIC so far actually do not exist and scarce commodities like cement and steel have been distributed by the KVIC to the non-existent biogas plants;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter; and

(c) what is the result thereof and what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Directorate of Economic Research of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has conducted a Census of 13,216 biogas plants in 14 selected districts of Maharashtra, Bihar and Tamil Nadu covering plants constructed under the aegis of KVIC during the period 1974-75 to 1981-82 (before the period of launching of the National Project for Biogas Development). KVIC state that 826 plants which were under construction at the time of the survey were classified as nontraceable and re-verification is being undertaken to determine the final position. KVIC has also initiated appropriate departmental action in regard to a few cases relating to cement and steel.

The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (DNES) monitor the National Project for Biogas Development through receipt of Inspection Reports from the State Governments and KVIC by conduct of survey by independent agencies, such as National Council of Applied Economic Research, etc., through field inspection done by its own staff with the Regional Offices, and is in the process of establishing 7 Monitoring Cells in different parts of the country. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is continuing to strengthen its monitoring mechanism.

बरियारपुर टेलीफोन सेवा

643. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मुंगेर जिले में बरियारपुर स्थित टेलीफोन केन्द्र को अभी तक मजबूत नहीं किया गया है और वहां एस०टी०डी० सुविधाएं उपलब्ध नहीं करायी गयी हैं जिसके फलस्वरूप संसद् सदस्यों को भी संतोषजनक टेलीफोन सेवा उपलब्ध नहीं हो रही है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में स्थित में सुधार करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा प्रस्तावित कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम निवास मिर्धा) : (क) बरियारपुर के टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज को समर्थ बना दिया गया है। छोटे आटोमेटिक एक्सचेंजों में एस०टी०डी० सेवा चालू करना संभव नहीं है। इनकी सेवा संतोषजनक है।

(ख) उपर्युक्त (क) को देखते प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Appointment of Chief Executives, etc in Public Sector Enterprises

644. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALRAM:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the appointment of as many as 44 Chief Executives and Functional Directors, Chairmen or Managing Directors in various public sector enterprises have been kept in abeyance so far even after the selection of the incumbents had been completed by the Public Enterprises Selection Board; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the impact on the overall functioning of those units of the delay in making these appointments?